

MALT was the first land trust in the country focused on the protection of agriculture. Under MALT, ranchers are paid for the development rights to their land which they continue to own. Under the agreement, they can live on the property and farm or sell to other farmers, always keeping the land in agriculture. Ellen's energy and commitment were key in MALT's success. She served for many years as a Board Member and Chair, and today the agency, with 32,000 acres preserved, is a national model for developing partnerships to protect agricultural land.

Ellen also understood the importance of educating the public in the value of agriculture. In the early 1970s she began hosting school groups at the ranch. Soon she was welcoming adults, from politicians to budding environmentalists, including visitors from abroad. Along with a good education and a up-close look at cows, Ellen served homemade apple pie. Today visitor programs to West Marin ranches continue to play a key role in informing the public about the role of agriculture in the community.

Ellen cared not only about preserving agriculture but also improving it. Concerned about the quality of food people eat and chemical and hormone additives, Ellen was a leader in developing organic products. She worked with her son Albert, who currently operates the family dairy, to produce the first organic milk west of the Mississippi. The Straus Family Creamery is now well-known for its high quality dairy products and environmental practices.

Numerous awards are a testament to Ellen's leadership. These include the Marin Women's Hall of Fame, the White House "Points of Light," and America's highest honor from the American Farmland Trust, the 1998 Steward of the Land award.

Ellen was also active in the the Greenbelt Alliance, the Eastshore Planning, Group, the Marin Conservation League, the Marin Community Foundation Neighborhood Achievements program, the Environmental Action Committee, the Tomales Bay Advisory Committee, the Environmental Forum, and West Marin Growers.

Ellen was a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother. She is survived by Bill, her husband of 52 years; sister Anneke Prins Simons; her four children: Albert and his wife Jeanne Smithfield; Vivien; Miriam and her husband Alan Berkowitz; and Michael; her four grandsons Isaac, Jonah, Reuben and Eli . . . and 270 milking cows.

Mr. Speaker, Ellen Straus will be missed by so many who shared in her work and her dreams. It is fitting to recognize her visionary efforts in preserving open space in West Marin and helping to create Point Reyes National Seashore that have left a legacy that all can enjoy. Her pioneering work in organic dairying is creating a new future in agriculture. I will always remember Ellen Straus as a wonderful, warm friend and committed steward of the land.

IN MEMORY OF JULIA ABRAMS

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death

of Julia Abrams, widow of former Army chief of staff General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.

Mrs. Abrams was born in Drummondville, Quebec. She was married to General Abrams in the summer of 1936 after they met while she was a junior at Vassar College and he was a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Mrs. Abrams founded the Arlington Ladies in the early 1970's. This group of women attended graveside interment services at Arlington National Cemetery and they also wrote notes of condolence and offered support. She was also honorary first lady of the U.S. Armor Association, a member of the executive council of the National Girl Scouts of America and a member of the National Military Families Association.

Mrs. Abrams accompanied her husband to overseas assignments and lived in Germany and Thailand. While in Thailand, she did volunteer work for Mitradab, a Thai-U.S. foundation chartered for school construction in rural Thailand.

Mr. Speaker, Julia Abrams was truly a lovely lady. She was a role model for Army wives and helped them cope with day to day military life. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to her family: her three sons, Brigadier General Creighton Williams Abrams III, USA, Retired; General John Nelson Abrams, USA, Retired; and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bruce Abrams, USA and her three daughters, Noel Bradley, Jeanne Daley and Elizabeth Doyle.

RECOGNIZING BROWARD COUNTY  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, MRS.  
JANE KOSZORU

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Jane Koszoru, the 2003 Broward County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Koszoru was recognized by Broward County for her outstanding professionalism and her consistent drive to teach and encourage Broward's children to achieve high standards.

Jane began her career 30 years ago as a teacher at Driftwood Middle School in Hollywood, Florida. Soon after, she taught at Coral Springs High School, where she stayed for 24 years. She is currently teaching at the College Academy at Broward Community College. The College Academy is an educational program that is provided, free of charge, to certain junior and senior high school students who attend classes with college students. At graduation, many of these students can enter a university with junior status.

Mrs. Koszoru grew up in Broward County and graduated from Nova High School in Davie, Florida. For Jane, teaching is a family tradition. Both her mother and grandmother taught in one-room classrooms in Nebraska. To her certain delight, her daughter is currently majoring in Education at the University of Florida.

Not only has Jane had a positive influence on her daughter, but she has inspired hundreds of her students. They nicknamed her, "Mrs. Work," with good reason, considering she has a reputation for pushing her students

to the best of their ability. Jane believes that children are smarter than they are given credit for and that all they need is someone to help them along. She creates high standards in her classroom and is constantly motivating her students to challenge themselves. Most certainly they are inspired by her own dedication to her career.

Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize Jane Koszoru for her accomplishments and her dedication to the students of Broward County, Florida. We also send our congratulations to her on being named the 2003 Broward County Teacher of the Year.

## A SOLDIER'S STORY

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the following article from the Shelbyville Daily Union, "A Soldier's Story: Letters Between Shelbyville Men Unite Mothers."

This story first appeared on February 10th. It is a prime example of the human component of our efforts to pursue and promote freedom and liberty.

A SOLDIER'S STORY: LETTERS BETWEEN  
SHELBYVILLE MEN UNITE MOTHERS

(By Sharon Mosley)

In 1990, during duty off the coast of Oman, United States Marine Staff Sergeant Keith Boehm wrote a letter to Shelbyville seventh grader Brian Alex Miller telling about his life as part of helicopter crew during the Gulf War. Miller had written to Boehm, a Shelbyville native, as part of a school assignment to write to soldiers.

"You wrote that it is boring when it rains," wrote Boehm. "Well you should try spending six months on a ship." What followed was a detailed description of Boehm's life as an electrician attached to a helicopter crew. While he told of the many mundane hours spent working on the ship, he also shared with his young reader some "pretty exciting stuff" like landing reconnaissance troops and scattering a herd of wild camels with the helicopter.

Boehm's letter became part of Miller's collection of "things"—tucked away in a drawer while Miller grew up, graduated from Shelbyville High School in 1995 and attended the University of Illinois. He is now a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studying architecture. With the possibility of another war in the Gulf looming, Miller's mother, Nancy Miller of Shelbyville, found Alex's letter from Boehm and wondered what had happened to the Staff Sergeant from Shelbyville. One phone call later, she found Boehm's mother, Sharon Boehm, also of Shelbyville.

"It is funny that we've both lived here all these years and didn't know each other," Nancy Miller said. "Shelbyville's not that large." Sharon Boehm said Keith is now Warrant Officer Boehm and is still a Marine, currently based in California.

"He was going to retire but after September 11 they froze all the retirements so he's still in," said Sharon Boehm. "He's active in recruiting."

Nancy Miller said she was interested in letters from soldiers in part, because an uncle, also a Marine, was killed at Okinawa during World War II.

"From his letters we were able to get a sense of what he was going through and the